



New York Field Office Partners for Fish and Wildlife Update Congressional District 26

Habitat Restoration in the Catatonk Watershed

Seventeen acres of shallow wetlands in the floodplain of Catatonk Creek have been restored by private contractors working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) biologists and private landowners. The 96,000-acre Catatonk Creek watershed is located in Tioga County, New York, within the headwaters of the Susquehanna River, which flows into Chesapeake Bay. Flooding, streambank erosion, gravel deposition, and nutrient loading are major issues in the watershed, contributing to water quality degradation in the Bay. Wetland restoration helps reduce flooding, while restoring water quality and wildlife habitat.

Ninety-seven acres of grassland habitat were restored by mowing, seeding, and lime-addition to benefit grassland-dependent bird species. Grassland habitat and the wildlife it supports are vanishing from New York State's landscape, as farm land is developed, and natural succession replaces grassland with trees and shrubs.